

**CLAIMS:**

1. An offset printing ink or varnish characterised in that the solvent comprises at least one water-insoluble ester of a polycarboxylic acid with an alcohol having at least 4 carbon atoms.
2. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 1, in which from 45% to 90% by weight of said solvent comprises an ester of a polycarboxylic acid with an alcohol having at least 4 carbon atoms.
3. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 2, in which from 50% to 80% by weight of said solvent comprises an ester of a polycarboxylic acid with an alcohol having at least 4 carbon atoms.
4. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 2, in which from 55% to 65% by weight of said solvent comprises an ester of a polycarboxylic acid with an alcohol having at least 4 carbon atoms.
5. An offset printing ink or varnish according to any one of the preceding Claims, in which said alcohol has from 4 to 20 carbon atoms.
6. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 5, in which said alcohol has from 6 to 10 carbon atoms.
7. An offset printing ink or varnish according to any one of the preceding Claims, in which said polycarboxylic acid has from 2 to 4 carboxylic acid groups.
8. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 7, in which said polycarboxylic acid has 3 or 4 carboxylic acid groups.
9. An offset printing ink or varnish according to any one of the preceding Claims, in which said polycarboxylic acid is an aromatic polycarboxylic acid.
10. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 9, in which said polycarboxylic acid is a benzenepolycarboxylic acid.
11. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 10, in which said benzenepolycarboxylic acid is trimellitic acid.

12. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 11, in which the ester is an ester of trimellitic acid with one or more straight chain saturated  $C_8 - C_{10}$  aliphatic alcohols.
13. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 11, in which the ester is tridecyl trimellitate.
14. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 11, in which the ester is an ester of citric acid or acetylcitric acid.
15. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 14, in which said ester is the butyl ester.
16. An offset printing ink or varnish according to any one of the preceding Claims, in which said solvent additionally comprises at least one triglyceride of  $C_8 - C_{20}$  aliphatic carboxylic acids.
17. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 16, in which said triglyceride is a triglyceride of  $C_{10} - C_{18}$  aliphatic carboxylic acids.
18. An offset printing ink or varnish according to Claim 17, in which said triglyceride is coconut oil.